

The Post-9/11 GI Bill

CHAPTER 33 OF TITLE 38 UNITED STATES CODE



**U. S. Department of Veterans
Affairs**

April 2009



Today's Objectives

- Overview of the Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33)
 - Eligibility
 - Payments
 - Transferability Rules
 - Yellow Ribbon Program
 - Overpayments and Debt Collection



Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility Criteria

Individuals who served on active duty after 09/10/01 may be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill if the individual:

- Served for an aggregate period of at least 90 days.

Note: Exceptions are made for individuals discharged due to a service connected disability and serving at least 30 continuous days on active duty after 9/10/01.



Eligibility Criteria

Service Requirements (after 9/10/01 an individual must serve an aggregate of)	Payment Tiers Percentage
At least 36 months	100
At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Must be discharged due to service-connected disability)	100
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	90
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months	80
*At least 18 months, but less than 24 months	70
*At least 12 months, but less than 18 months	60
*At least 06 months, but less than 12 months	50
*At least 90 days, but less than 06 months	40

*Excludes time served in Basic Military Training and/or Skill Training



Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility Period

In general, individuals will remain eligible for benefits for 15 years from:

- Date of last discharge; or
- Release from active duty of at least 90 continuous days.



Post-9/11 GI Bill Entitlement

- Individuals will generally receive 36 months of benefits.
- Individuals are limited to 48 months of combined benefits under educational assistance programs administered by VA.

NOTE: Individuals transferring to the Post-9/11 GI Bill from the Montgomery GI Bill (chapter 30) will be limited to the amount of remaining chapter 30 entitlement.



Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefit Payments

- Tuition and Fees
- Monthly Housing Allowance
- Books and Supplies Stipend
- Kickers/College Fund/"Buy-up"
- Yellow Ribbon Program
- Rural Relocation



Post-9/11 GI Bill Effective Date

August 1, 2009

Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) benefits can be paid for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009.

No payments may be made for training pursued before that date.



Tuition and Fees

Schools must report **charged** tuition and fees.

State benefits are governed by State law:

- If State prohibits public IHL from charging student tuition (and/or fees), no charges should be reported to VA
- If State waives tuition (and/or fees) after the student is charged, tuition and fees should be reported to VA

VA cannot consider financial aid or scholarships when determining a student's payment.



Tuition Charged

- Each State has maximum in-State per credit hour amount listed on VA's website
- VA compares actual tuition charged per credit hour vs. maximum in-State per credit hour and pays the lesser amount

EXAMPLE: Maximum in-State is \$500 per credit hour. Joe's school reports he is enrolled in 15 credit hours for Fall '09 semester and is charged \$3,000 tuition.

-Determine maximum: $\$500 \times 15 = \$7,500$.

-VA pays lesser amount: \$3,000.



Fees Defined

- FEES — Any mandatory charges (except tuition, room, and board) including, but not limited to:
 - Health premiums
 - Freshman fees
 - Graduation fees
 - Lab fees

Does not include charges for study abroad courses unless course is mandatory.



Fees Charged

- Each State has maximum fees per term (quarter, semester, or non-standard)
- VA compares actual fees charged for term vs. maximum in-State fees per term and pays the lesser amount

EXAMPLE: Maximum in-State fees is \$1,000 per term. Joe's school reports he was charged \$900 in fees for Fall '09 semester.

– VA pays lesser amount: \$900.

If Joe is eligible at 100% tier level (based on length of service). total T&F payment = \$3,900)



Tuition and Fees Charged

- Individuals not on active duty are eligible for the applicable percentage (based on aggregate active duty service) of the lesser of—
 - Tuition and fees charged; **or**
 - Highest amount of tuition (per credit hour) and fees (per term) charged for full-time, undergraduate training at a public IHL in the State the student is attending.

Note: Tuition and Fees payments are paid directly to the school



Tuition and Fees Charged

- Individuals on active duty are eligible for the applicable percentage (based on aggregate active duty service) of the lesser of —
 - Tuition and fees charged; **or**
 - The amount of tuition and fees charged that exceeds the amount paid by the military's tuition assistance (TA) program.

Note: Tuition and Fees payments are paid directly to the school



Monthly Housing Allowance

- Equivalent to the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents
 - Amount determined by zip code of the IHL where the student is enrolled
 - <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>
 - Prorated based on the percentage of the maximum benefit payable
- Active duty members, anyone training at $\frac{1}{2}$ time or less, and those pursuing training solely by distance learning are not eligible for the monthly housing allowance.

Note: Benefit payments are paid directly to the eligible person on a monthly basis.



Books and Supplies Stipend

- Up to a \$1,000 per year
 - \$41.67 per credit hour
 - Up to 24 credit hours in a single academic year
 - Lump sum payment (each quarter, semester or term attended)
 - Prorated based on the percentage of the maximum benefit payable
 - Active duty members are not eligible
- Note: Benefit payments are paid directly to the student*



Books and Supplies Stipend

- Example:
 - If Susan enrolls in 15 credit hours for the Fall Term, she will receive a lump sum payment of \$625.05 ($\$41.67 \times 15 \text{ credit hours} = \625.05)
 - During the Spring term she enrolls in an additional 12 hours. Susan is only eligible to receive the books and supplies stipend for 9 of the 12 credit hours, she can not exceed the maximum of 24 credit hours in a single academic year. Her payment for the Spring term will be \$375.03 ($\$41.27 \times 9 = \375.03)



Kickers/College Fund/"Buy-Up"

- MGIB (ch30) and/or MGIB-SR (ch1606) kickers
 - Paid in lump sum to student for enrollment period based on rate of pursuit
 - Paid to spouse/child if using transferred benefits
- New chapter 33 kicker
 - Not available yet
 - Will be paid with the monthly housing allowance
- \$600 buy-up does not transfer to chapter 33



Approved Programs

- All programs approved under chapter 30 and offered by an IHL.
- Individuals who were previously eligible for chapter 30, 1606, or 1607 may continue to receive benefits for approved programs not offered by IHLs (i.e. flight, correspondence, APP/OJT, preparatory courses, and national tests).



Post-9/11 GI Bill Elections

An individual who has met the requirements to establish eligibility under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) and, as of August 1, 2009 is:

- Eligible for either chapter 30, 1606, or 1607, (must make an *irrevocable* election to use benefits under chapter 33); or
- A member of the Armed Forces and making the basic \$1200 contribution toward chapter 30; or
- A member of the Armed Forces who previously declined to elect chapter 30.



Transfer of Entitlement

(Department of Defense Benefit)

- On or after August 1, 2009, DoD may allow an individual to elect to transfer entitlement to one or more dependents if he/she —
 - Has served at least 6 years in the Armed Forces; and
 - Agrees to serve at least another 4 years in the Armed Forces.
- Spouses may use transferred benefits after 6 years of service; dependent children after 10 years.



Transfer of Entitlement

(Department of Defense Benefit)

- DoD determines eligibility for transferability and may, by regulation, impose additional eligibility requirements and limit the number of months transferable.



Yellow Ribbon Program

- Institutions voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition and fees costs above the highest in-state undergraduate tuition and fees rate.
- VA will match each additional dollar that an institution contributes toward an eligible student's tuition costs, up to 50 percent of the difference between the student's tuition and fees benefit and the total cost of tuition and mandatory fees.



Yellow Ribbon Program (Cont'd)

- Only individuals entitled to the 100 percent benefit rate (based on service requirements) may receive this funding.
- Individuals receiving transferred benefits from a service member may also be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program.



Yellow Ribbon Program Timeline

- 12/01/08 – Sent Yellow Ribbon Program informational letter to Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs).
- 01/05/09 – Sent Yellow Ribbon Program inquiry letter to IHLs to determine the level of interest.
- 03/31/09 – Final Regulations Published March 31, 2009
and VA is placing the Yellow Ribbon Agreement on our website for schools to download and submit to VA.



Yellow Ribbon Program Agreement

IHL must agree to:

- Select eligible students on a first-come-first-served basis
- Provide contributions during current academic year and all subsequent years if student maintains satisfactory progress
- State maximum number of students
- State how contributions will be made (grant, scholarship, or other)
- State yearly maximum dollar amount per student based on:
 - Student status (undergraduate, graduate, doctoral); or
 - Subelement (college or professional school)
- Provide maximum amount payable to student each term



Yellow Ribbon Program (Cont'd)

- Yellow Ribbon Information will be displayed in the Web-Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS)
 - Maximum Yellow Ribbon Payment information
 - Maximum number of participants at the IHL
- EXAMPLE: IHL agreed to pay \$1,000 during academic year for each Yellow Ribbon student.
 - Jim's tuition and fees for Fall '09 are \$6,500. VA pays maximum in-State T&F of \$4,000 as chapter 33 benefit.
 - IHL Yellow Ribbon contribution is \$1,000 and VA contributes \$1,000. Jim must pay remainder of \$500.
 - Jim has used maximum contribution from school for academic year.
- Yellow Ribbon paid as lump sum to school



Yellow Ribbon Program Certification Process

- Participating institutions will offer Yellow Ribbon to eligible students.
- VA-Once modifications will allow school to certify student's tuition and fees separately, and to enter the Yellow Ribbon contribution amount.
- VA will verify student's eligibility for Yellow Ribbon and process payments.
- VA will provide notification to student, including



Overpayment of Benefits

- VA will determine the amount of an overpayment for an individual in receipt of chapter 33 benefits
- An individual who does not complete one or more courses in the certified period of enrollment, and who does not substantiate mitigating circumstances for not completing such course(s), will be charged an overpayment equal to the amount of ALL educational assistance paid for such course(s) for that period of enrollment.

Overpayment of Benefits (Cont'd)



- This means, the student is responsible for any overpayment incurred as a result of not completing courses.
- In the event a student does not complete a course, schools should follow their established student refund policy.

Bottom Line: Tuition and Fees payments are paid to the school on behalf of the student; overpayments for Tuition and Fees will be charged to the student.



Overpayment of Benefits (Cont'd)

- In the event a student does not complete a course, the student may (or may not) receive a refund from the school.

Bottom Line: If an overpayment is charged, the student will make repayment arrangements with VA's Debt Management Center (DMC) regardless of whether or not a refund was received from the school.



Overpayment of Benefits (Contd)

- If an overpayment is charged, VA will notify the student.
- Overpayment notifications will inform the student of the overpayment amount and whom to contact to establish a repayment schedule.
- Overpayments are collected by the VA Debt Management Center.



Overpayment of Benefits (Contd)

- In most cases, overpayments will not be collected during the due process period, which is 30 days from the day of notification.

Bottom Line: Students with existing overpayments on their record may attend schools; however, their benefit payments (including Tuition and Fees) may be applied to the overpayment until it is repaid.



References

- GI Bill Website (www.gibill.va.gov)
 - Sign up for FAQ updates!
- GI Bill Hotline: 1-888-GIBILL-1
- Yellow Ribbon mailbox (yellow.ribbon@va.gov)



Yellow Ribbon Student Scenario 1

Sergeant Smith attending Stanford University

Tuition at Stanford = \$20,000

Highest In-state undergraduate fees = \$15,000

Difference (paid by Sgt Smith) = \$5,000

Yellow Ribbon Program 50%

Stanford pays \$2,500

VA matches Stanford's percentage = \$2,500

Difference (paid by Sgt Smith) - \$0.00



Yellow Ribbon Student Scenario 2

Sergeant Smith attending Stanford University

Tuition Cost \$20,000

Highest In-state undergraduate \$15,000

Difference = \$5,000

Yellow Ribbon 25%

Stanford pays = \$1,250

VA matches Stanford's percentage = \$1,250

Difference (paid by Sgt Smith) = \$2,500



Yellow Ribbon Student Scenario 3

Sergeant Smith attending Stanford University

Sergeant Duckworth attending a college where there the tuition and fees are less than the highest in-state tuition and fees.

If the amount of the tuition and fees were less than the highest in-state charges, the individual would only be eligible to receive the actual tuition and fees charged.



Questions?